

2016-2020 COMMERCIAL FISHING REGULATIONS FOR CANYON FERRY RESERVOIR

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These regulations, adopted by the Fish and Wildlife Commission, will be in effect from February, 2016 through December 31, 2020 for Tracy Fortner.

CANYON FERRY RESERVOIR

I. FISHING SEASON

- a. Commercial fishing is permitted during open water from May 1 to December 31 in portions of Canyon Ferry Reservoir south of White Earth.
- b. Commercial fishing is permitted during open water from September 15 through December 31 in portions of Canyon Ferry Reservoir north of White Earth.
- c. No commercial fishing will be conducted on weekends or Holidays. Only weekday activity will be permitted in order to minimize any conflict with recreational users.
- d. Commercial fishing will be permitted during daylight hours only.

II. FISHING AREAS

The regulations provide for the harvest of carp only with actively pulled seines operated in specific parts of Canyon Ferry Reservoir with the following restrictions:

- a. No setting and anchoring of seines will occur north of White Earth prior to September 15 to avoid conflicts with recreationists and anglers. Exceptions may be made following consultation with the reservoir Fish Biologist. Approval of any exceptions will be in effect only after the receipt of an email or written confirmation from the reservoir Fish Biologist.
- b. Commercial fishing at the south end of the lake (south of White Earth) will not be permitted prior to May 1st to avoid conflicts with walleye and rainbow spawning.
- c. Commercial fishing in the vicinity of Duck Creek will avoid the Wildlife Management Area and concentrations of recreational anglers near the dikes by maintaining a buffer of at least 1 mile north of Dike 1. This point will be clearly marked on the shoreline.
- d. Commercial fishing will avoid all public boat launch facilities and other popular bays for fishing and boating.

III. OTHER RESTRICTIONS

- a. Fishing activity should be conducted in a manner that minimizes disturbance of waterfowl and avoids western grebes and other diving fish-eating birds. Incidental catch of birds must be reported in your monthly reports to FWP.
- b. Permittee must file a monthly operations schedule with the Department prior to any fishing for the month.
- c. A Department representative will be allowed to accompany the fisherman at any

- time to observe or to collect biological data.
- d. A summary of fishing activities and catch are to be submitted on forms provided by the Department. The report should indicate the dates and locations of fishing efforts along with daily catch statistics (number and pounds caught). A separate report shall be submitted for each water fished.
 - e. Landing and loading of boats, gear (nets, pens, cages) and fish will only be done at sites determined and permitted by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.
 - f. All fish captured other than carp must be returned alive to the water immediately. The permittee must document and account for in reports: all fish species caught and/or handled daily, including final disposition (caught, released, released alive, released dead, etc.)
 - g. Any non-carp fish mortalities need to be cut in half (down through the center of the back and belly), including the air bladder, then the carcass halves deposited in deep water to sink to the bottom out of public's sight. This is consistent with ARM (Administrative Rules of Montana) 12.7.105 that requires that all non-target dead fish from commercial fishing operations be cut and sunk.
 - h. Only common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) may be removed from the reservoir, and packed for shipment only on ice or dry, but not in water, no live hauling.
 - i. Under 87-4-609 MCA FWP has the authority to give and condition permits for the commercial taking of aquatic fish food species. If the conditions, restrictions or terms of the permit are violated or, if over-harvest or conflict with recreational use of the waters occurs, FWP may require the suspension of operations or revoke the permit.
 - j. While game fish by-catch is anticipated to be low, permittee will be required to stop fishing with 48 hours notice if stress to and/or mortality of non-carp species is excessive. Daily catches which exceed 5% game fish or 10% non-game fish other than carp will constitute grounds for suspension of operations, as will a cumulative mortality of more than 100 game fish, (yellow perch, burbot, walleye, trout, whitefish, northern pike, or bass), or 200 non-game fish other than carp. Percentages will be calculated based on numbers of fish netted.
 - k. ARM 12.7.101 requires a permittee who receives approval post a \$1000 corporate surety bond in favor of the State of Montana and conditioned on the faithful carrying out of the provisions of the application and permit.
 - l. All processing waste must be disposed of in an approved landfill in accordance with appropriate Montana statutes and codes. No waste may be dumped in or near Canyon Ferry Reservoir.
 - m. Only one commercial operator is allowed on each waterbody unless additional harvest would be beneficial (ARM 12.7.102). Additional permits may be considered at anytime between 2016-2020 on this waterbody if progress toward harvesting the desired number of carp through this permit is not met.